WASHINGTON, DC- Today, Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) announced that a grant of \$378,600 has been awarded to the Sanger Unified School District to help establish and expand elementary and secondary school counseling programs. These funds are being awarded through the United States Department of Education under their Elementary and Secondary School Counseling grant program. The funds will be used to create counseling services at Sanger Unified schools and will be designed and implemented along with the involvement of parents and students.

" This is great news for Sanger, " said Costa. " This program will expand needed counseling programs and help recruit more qualified school counselors who will use new resources to reach our students and assist them through their school day. "

With these funds, schools will be able to hire qualified adolescent psychiatrists, creating better counseling services and closing the gap with better funded school districts. Schools that provide counseling services to students have been found to improve both student attendance and academic performance. This grant will last a total of three years.